

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 021130Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3927

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2250

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFELE FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,ZA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA RE THE INITIATIVE
AND U.S. ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 217163

1. AS NOTED PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS, KAUNDA NOW UP COUNTRY AND
NOT PLANNING TO RETURN UNTIL SUNDAY. HE MAY GO TO DAR
BEGINNING OF THE WEEK FOR MEETING OF THE FRONT-LINE
PRESIDENTS WITH NATIONALISTS.
2. WE HAVE HEARD NO COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT INITIATIVE
MIGHT BE MOTIVATED BY PARTISAN CONCERNS RELATING TO THE
ELECTIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, A NUMBER OF AFRICANS,
INCLUDING EDITOR OF DAILY MAIL HAVE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION
THAT SECRETARY WOULD UNDERTAKE AN INITIATIVE AS RISKY AS THIS
SO CLOSE TO AN ELECTION. PRESIDENT AND CHONA HAVE EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MAY REQUIRE MORE TIME THAN
AVAILABLE BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTIONS, AND THAT WHICHEVER PARTY
IS SUCCESSFUL, THE REORGANIZATION WHICH IS LIKELY TO ENSUE
MIGHT INTERFERE WITH CONTINUING PURSUIT OF NEGOTIATIONS.
3. AS INSTRUCTED, I WILL SEEK TO SEE THE PRESIDENT FOLLOW-

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ING HIS RETURN. PRESUMABLY BY THAT TIME THERE WILL BE

OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE INITIATIVE AND POSSIBLE VISIT
WHICH CAN ALSO BE DISCUSSED.
LOW

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